

COMBINATIONS OF C6 CERAMIDE AND CHEMOTHERAPEUTIC AGENTS
FOR INDUCING CELL DEATH AND USES THEREOF IN TREATING
CANCER

5 Abstract of the Disclosure

10 This invention provides a method for increasing apoptosis
in tumor cells and a method of decreasing a size of a
tumor, said methods comprising contacting the tumor cells
with: a) an effective amount of at least one antitumor
chemotherapeutic agent and b) an effective amount of a
ceramide, sequentially or concomitantly, wherein the
apoptosis induced by the combination of the antitumor
chemotherapeutic agent and the ceramide is greater than
15 the apoptosis induced by contact of the tumor cells with
either the antitumor chemotherapeutic agent alone or the
ceramide alone. This invention also provides a method of
treating cancer in a subject which comprises a method
according to either of the above-described methods. This
20 invention provides a method for treating cancer in a
subject comprising administering to the subject an
effective amount of at least one antitumor chemo-
therapeutic agent and an effective amount of at least one
ceramide, sequentially or concomitantly. This invention
25 provides a pharmaceutical composition comprising at least
one antitumor chemotherapeutic agent in an amount
effective to induce apoptosis of tumor cells and at least
one ceramide in an amount effective to induce apoptosis
of tumor cells and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

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